

Dodgeball is a big hit with Balad Airmen

By Senior Airman **Tim Beckham**
332nd AEW Public Affairs

Ever since the movie came out two years ago, dodgeball has become a national phenomenon. Although it hasn't surpassed the popularity of baseball or football yet, dodgeball has still spread like wild fire and can be seen played in gymnasiums across the nation.

Members here got into the game Monday night in a base tournament open to everyone and most agreed that it was the movie that inspired them to pick up a ball and get into the act.

"Many of us played dodgeball as kids during PE class and the movie reminded us how fun it was to play," said Lt. Col. John Williams, 332nd Expeditionary Services Squadron commander "The games are fast paced and offer plenty of excitement."

With homemade uniforms, face paint and

See Dodgeball, Page 6



Photos by Maj. Robert Couse-Baker

End of an era

Airmen applaud and cheer, thanking injured Soldiers and Marines for their service in the war on terrorism as they are brought aboard the last C-141 Starlifter combat-zone aeromedical evacuation flight Thursday. This flight concluded more than three decades of overseas aeromedical evacuation missions with the aircraft, beginning during the Vietnam War. For more information see, C-141 flies last mission from combat zone, at www.af.mil.

Having fun



Page 2

Whatever Balad needs



Page 3

Muslims prepare for Ramadan



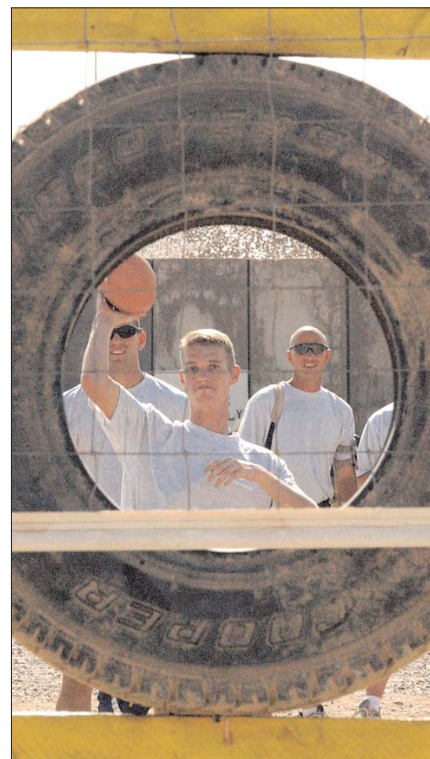
Page 4



Photos by Senior Airman Bryan Franks

Having fun in the desert

The Bits of Steel, 332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron members, showed their mettle holding off their opponents and claim first place in the tug of war contest. The tug of war contest was one of many Sports Day events at Balad Air Base Sunday.



Staff Sgt. Billy Kemper, 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron, throws footballs through a tire during the Sports Day quarterback challenge Sunday.

COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE

As a service for Balad Airmen, the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing operates the Commander's Action Line program. The line is a way for Balad Air Base members to get answers to questions or express concerns about life on the base.

Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc, 332nd AEW commander, gives action line queries his personal attention. The *Red Tail Flyer* will publish those items that are judged to be of general interest to the Balad Air Base population. In addition to using the commander's action line, Balad Airmen are asked to remember their chain of command when dealing with problems and concerns.

The Commander's Action Line can be reached via e-mail at 332cc.action-line@blab.centaf.af.mil. Those using the action line should include name, unit and phone number in case additional information is needed and for a timely response.



Photo by Senior Airman Bryan Franks

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing
Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc
Wing Commander

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<http://www.afnews.af.mil/iraq/baladarchive/current.pdf>

Whatever Balad needs supply has it

Supply Airmen process millions in equipment to protect Balad's warriors

By Senior Airman **Bryan Franks**
332nd AEW Public Affairs

"If Balad Air Base needs it, the 332nd Expeditionary Logistic Readiness Squadron base supply has it," said Master Sgt. Melvin White, 332nd ELRS chief of supply. "If we don't have it we'll get it."

Supply handles all of the assets that flow into Balad and is responsible for getting those assets processed, stored and delivered to the Airmen.

In the past two weeks base supply has processed more than \$23 million worth of assets into Balad and manages all of the Air Force's equipment accounts here worth more than \$119 million.

"We carry everything that the war fighter needs - from sticky notes to armor," said Master Sgt. Augustine Cruz, 332nd ELRS customer service branch chief. He said base supply has more than \$20 million worth in individual body armor alone.

The supply store here carries flashlights, boots, uniforms and more, Sergeant Cruz said. If an Airman needs supplies all they need is a letter from their commander stating what they need and



Photos by Senior Airman **Bryan Franks**

Senior Airmen Clarissa Britton and Michael White, 332nd Expeditionary Logistic Readiness Squadron both deployed from Aviano Air Base, Italy, stack individual body armor after it has been handed in by Airmen. Supply has more than \$20 million worth of body armor stored in the warehouse.

the reason why. Supply will take care of the rest.

It's been said that aircraft don't fly without maintainers. While that maybe true, Sergeant White said, maintainers can't do their jobs without base supply.

"We process all the parts and tools needed to maintain more than 30 different types of vehicles and aircraft including F-16s and Predators," Sergeant Cruz said. "You can't fly without supply."

Base supply also maintains a mission support kit for C-130s just in case one of them has mechanical problem while flying into Balad.

In addition, base supply is one of the first stops for many Balad Airmen when they arrive here, Sergeant White said. A large number of Airmen must turn in their weapon to supply because the 332nd ELRS maintains a temporary armory.

Serving as one of the first and last stops for Airmen as they serve in Balad the 332nd ELRS members do their best to ensure everyone here has what they need to accomplish the mission.



Staff Sgts. Marlena Marshall and Chris Behrends, 332nd Expeditionary Logistic Readiness Squadron, put away supplies just received. Supply has processed more than \$23 million worth of assets in the past two weeks.

Muslims prepare to observe Ramadan

By Chaplain (Maj.) **David Fitz-Patrick**
332nd AEW chaplain

Within the next few days the Islamic holy month of Ramadan will begin, marking the time when Muslims will be participating in many traditional practices.

Muslims believe that during the month of Ramadan the first verses of the holy book, the Quran, were revealed to the prophet Muhammad, a messenger of God. They also believe that the angel Gabriel appeared to Muhammad in 622 B.C., and told him he had been chosen to receive the word of God. In the days following that appearance they believe, Muhammad spoke the verses that later became the Quran.

According to the Quran, God requires fasting, praying and charity to the poor during Ramadan in order to grow in piety or holiness, according to the Quran.

This year Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar should begin Oct. 5 and end Nov. 4. It is necessary to use the word 'should' because the beginning and end of Ramadan is traditionally signaled by the sighting of the new moons of the ninth and tenth month of the Islamic lunar calendar. A lunar month has only 29 or 30 days, a year of 12 lunar months is usually 11 days shorter than a solar calendar. As a result, Ramadan occurs about 11 days earlier each year.

Fasting during Ramadan is one of the

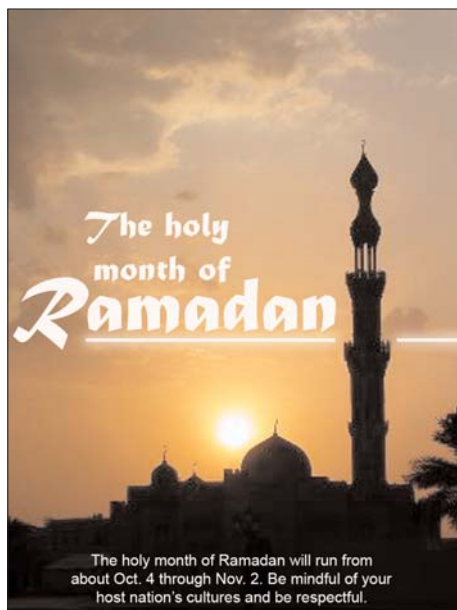


Illustration by Senior Airman Tim Bechham

five pillars of Islam and is considered an essential duty of every Muslim. Every day from sunrise through sunset Muslims fast, abstaining from food, drink, smoking and sexual relations. All Muslims who are mentally and physically able to fast are obligated to fast. The elderly and sick are absolved from fasting; however, they are required to feed a poor person for every day of fasting they miss.

Fasting is believed to allow self-purification and spiritual growth. Shortly before sunrise a meal is encouraged, and immediately after sunset a light meal is shared,

followed by evening prayers and then a more substantial meal.

Following the practice of Muhammad, devout Muslims say prayers each night during Ramadan. They thank God for revealing the Quran, which they regard as a guide for humanity. Depending on whether a person belongs to the Sunni or Shia branch of Islam, prayers are recited either communally in a mosque or individually. In addition, the entire Quran is recited over the course of the month.

The final 10 days of Ramadan are considered especially important and some believers remain in seclusion in a mosque during these days to pray and draw closer to God. The 27th night of Ramadan is a night of special prayer marking what many Muslims regard as the day when the first revelation of the Quran took place.

The end of Ramadan begins at the sighting of the new moon of the tenth month of the Islamic year. A three day festival begins immediately after the sighting called Eid al-Fitr, the Feast of Fast Breaking. This celebration is marked with communal prayers and offerings of charity to the poor, visiting friends, neighbors and relatives.

A Muslim once compared Ramadan to the Christian season of Lent, the 40 days proceeding Easter, when prayer, fasting and offerings are encouraged as a means for Christians to grow in holiness.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Shannon Kluge

COMACC visits

Gen. Ronald Keys, Air Combat Command commander, talks to Airmen from the 332nd Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility during his visit to Balad Air Base Saturday. General Keys is responsible for organizing, training, equipping and maintaining combat-ready forces for rapid deployment.

Watching LES helps avoid pay issues

By Staff Sgt. **Tammie Moore**
332nd AEW Public Affairs

"A small over payment and a poor understanding of military pay entitlements can quickly turn into a large pay problem," said Staff Sgt. Nathan Mueller 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing finance office cashier. This is why we encourage Airmen to take control of their finances."

To help Airmen avoid sticky pay situations, finance Airmen are on hand here to offer assistance with pay inquiries, issue and reset myPay PINs, help with accrual voucher submissions, act as a liaison between Airmen in Balad and home station finance offices, cash personnel checks and provide access to www.myeasypayment.com for government travel card payments and inquiries.

The responsibility of comptrollers begins shortly after Airmen first step foot in Balad.

"When Airmen arrive here the (personnel support for contingency operations) team forwards a roster to our office which is used to start hostile fire pay, also known as imminent danger pay, at \$225 a month and the combat zone tax exclusion," said Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Williamson, 332nd AEW finance customer service and support technician.

After Airmen return to their home station and file their final travel voucher, they will receive hardship duty pay for Iraq at \$100 a month, Sergeant Williamson said. Members who are entitled to with dependent rate basic housing allowance will also receive family separation pay at \$250 per month. Both entitlements are prorated.

In addition to understanding military pay entitlements, knowing per diem entitlements can help avoid pay issues.

Many Airmen do not understand the accrual voucher system, per diem entitlements and cash withdrawals reimbursement, Sergeant Williamson said.

"Cash withdrawals on a government travel card are an advance on your per diem, which is payment for meals and incidentals at a rate based on where you traveled," Sergeant Williamson said.

While in Balad, Airmen receive \$3.50 per day per diem. Sergeant Mueller said. "People may take \$300 out of an ATM on their GTC, but if they are not entitled to that much per diem they will be required to pay the difference out of their own pocket."

Because a GTC is like other charge cards, payments must still be made regardless of a member's deployment status.

"Bank of America, (the GTC vendor)

expects their money by the payment due date and any delinquency will negatively affect the member's credit and can affect their career," Sergeant Williamson said.

Deployed Airmen can file their accrual voucher through Virtual MPF or at the finance office here. All vouchers are processed through the service member's home station.

Airmen who do not have time to make it to the finance office make changes to their pay on line through myPay.

"My Pay offers all of the most common financial transaction at the tip of your fingers," Sergeant Williamson said.

"You can update allotments, address, taxes, direct deposit, thrift savings plan, W-2's and leave and earning statements on myPay," Sergeant Mueller said.

No matter where an Airman is stationed, responsibility for managing personal pay rests in the hands of each individual.

"Don't leave your pay concerns to chance take charge and manage your pay check," Sergeant Mueller said. "If you think something is wrong with your pay take action, call our office, stop by or check your LES on myPay."

The finance office is open Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, call 443-7482.

Reps learn of Red Tail mission

Staff Sgt. Ryan Buehler, 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, demonstrates the Force Protection Aerial Surveillance System to (left to right) Rep. Michael Bilirakis of Fla., Rep. Steve Pearce of N.M., Rep. Cliff Stearns of Fla., Rep. Sam Johnson of Texas and Rep. David Wu of Ore. The FPASS is used as a force protection tool for the base.



Photos by Airman 1st Class Chad Watkins



Photos by Airman 1st Class Chad Watkins

Talking with Gen. Reed

Brig. Gen. Charles Reed, Director of Mobility Forces, and Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander, visit with Airmen from the 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Squadron during his visit to Balad Air Base Sept. 23 through 24.

Dodgeball, from Page 1

the desire to hit someone with a large-rubber object; dodgeball can be enjoyed by anyone.

"It is a sport that doesn't take a great deal of athleticism and any age person can play, so it is ideal for large groups of people like deployed military members," Colonel Williams said. "In addition, it is easy to play in a deployed area because you only need five rubber balls and a flat surface to play."

With 16 teams entered in the tourney, it was anyone's game here, but the scrappy Wing Staff Predators refused to go quietly into the night on their way to taking home top honors.

The Predators, led by Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander, made their way to the finals by dismantling three teams before reaching the title game against 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron's team.

The epic clash featured both the Predators and 332nd ECES teams battling back and forth waiting for the other to make a mistake.

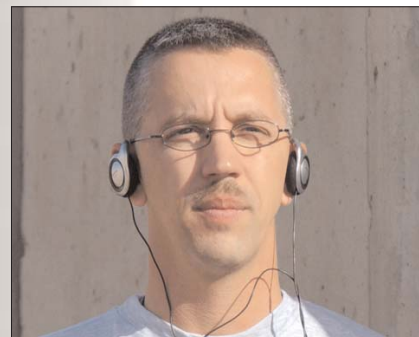
Patience paid off as the game ended with the civil engineers out numbered three to one, giving the Predators the opportunity to focus all their attention on the last man standing. It proved to be too much as the last CE member dodged the first throw but was then hit by the other two.

The 332nd ESVS will be hosting more dodgeball tournaments in the future, Colonel Williams said.

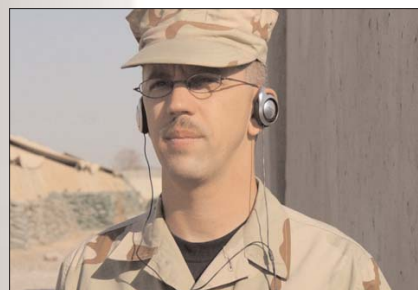
"We will be holding dodgeball tournaments every other Monday at 8 p.m. at the H6 basketball courts," he said. "Anyone who would like to play should sign up at the fitness center no later than 7 p.m. the day of the tournament. The next tournament will be held Oct. 10."

BALAD AIR BASE UNIFORM TIPS

When wearing the official Air Force physical training uniform, headphones may be worn when inside the clearly defined confines of housing areas and away from areas of frequent vehicle traffic. Headphones may also be worn with PT gear on authorized running tracks while performing PT activities outside the housing area or at the base fitness facilities. They may not be worn to and from the running track and base facilities when they are located outside the housing area. Guidelines on headphone regulations can be found in 332 AEW 36-2903 section two, [Dress and Personal Appearance Standards].



Right



Wrong

Pride: Valuing traditions, customs is key piece of military culture

By Command Chief Master Sgt. **Layton Clark**
332nd AEW command chief

Sadly, I didn't learn the Air Force song until 2001, when I earned my chief master sergeant stripe. It was never taught at basic military training school, during professional military education, or at any other venue I attended as I was coming up through the ranks.

It wasn't considered important for enlisted folks to sing it. It wasn't until a former security force chief of mine, Chief Master Sgt. Steve Sullens, then 7th Air Force command chief master sergeant (now the Chief of the Air Force Senior Leadership Management Office Chief's Group) and a heck of a great chief, taught me to do it with other selectees at our promotion party. He scrambled us the words to the song and had us arrange them and sing it.

I thought it was a silly exercise until he explained that like the Marine Corps and the Army, we have traditions and customs we should all embrace to show our pride and identity. We should share that pride and identity with our troops to carry on the strength of our service throughout the generations.

He said being the flag bearer of tradition is just one example of the way the NCOs, senior NCOs and chiefs give back to the enlisted corps; The pride is the very fiber of our commitment to serve.

I have sung the Air Force song at commander's calls - I even learned the Army song when I served with 145 Soldiers who were integrated into the squadron. We sang both songs and it made a difference in everyone's step and professionalism.

Air Force Song

***Off we go into the wild blue yonder,
Climbing high into the sun;
Here they come, zooming to meet our thunder,
At 'em boys, give 'er the gun!
Down we dive, spouting our flame from under,
Off with one hell-uv-a roar!
We live in fame or go down in flame,
Nothing'll stop the U.S. Air Force!***

When Operation Iraqi Freedom began, I was on the ground with 39 of the first defenders to arrive at a place we had not been before. After we were briefed on the operation, we sang the Air Force song in an old Yugoslavian-built underground bunker. The tired and scared looks in their eyes from thoughts of themselves and aircraft being shot at while they set up a bare base vanished, and they laid 38 kilometers of barriers and wire, and built 23 fighting positions within two weeks of their arrival.

Now we sing the Air Force song here as we carry on the traditions of the Airmen who have come before us.

News Notes

◆ The joint chaplain service is hosting a Night of Joy themed "Praise is what to do," today in the east side recreation center at 7 p.m. For more information, call 443-7703.

◆ The Red Tail Life Skills Flight is offering a four session tobacco cessation program at the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Squadron Clinic Wednesdays at 5 p.m. For more information or to sign up, call 443-7306 or e-mail warren.meeting@blab.centaf.af.mil.

Balad AB Religious Schedule

Protestant - Traditional

Sundays
7:30 a.m. Hospital, 9:30 a.m. Provider Chapel, 10 a.m. Freedom Chapel

Protestant - Gospel

Sundays
11 a.m. - Sustainer Indoor Theater, 11:30 Freedom Chapel, 7 p.m. - Provider Chapel

Protestant- Praise and Worship

Sundays
9:30 a.m. Sustainer Indoor Theater, 5:30 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel, 6:30 p.m. Moral and Warfare Recreation Tent 29th SPT BN
Sundays and Wednesdays
7 p.m. Freedom Chapel

Protestant - Contemporary

Sundays
10 a.m. 299th FSB Tent Chapel, 11 a.m. Town Hall
Latter Day Saints
Sundays
1p.m. Provider Chapel, 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel
Liturgical- Protestant
Sundays

8 a.m. Provider Chapel
Samoan Congregational Service
Sundays

4 p.m. Provider Chapel

Roman Catholic Mass

Mondays - Fridays: 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel
Wednesdays

11 a.m. Air Force Hospital

Saturdays

5 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (4:45 p.m. Reconciliation)

Sundays

8:30 a.m. Freedom Chapel, 9 a.m. Tuskegee Chapel, 11 a.m. Provider Chapel, 3:30 p.m. "626" Chapel (for Special Ops personnel only)

Church of Christ

Sunday

11 a.m. Aviation Village 1, 1-245 ATS/Conf. room

Islamic Prayer

Fridays

13:30 p.m. Provider Chapel

Jewish Prayer

Fridays

6:30 p.m. Provider Chapel Annex

Know what this is?



Photo by Senior Airman Tim Beckham

If you can identify the object, send us an e-mail at redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil. Last week's photo of a staple remover was first identified by Master Sgt. Richard Butturini, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing.

Meet your neighbor



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore

Staff Sgt. Tom Brick

Home station: Cannon Air Force Base, N.M.

Unit: 332nd Expeditionary Contracting Squadron contracting officer

Hobbies: I enjoy reading, running, hiking and camping.

How do you contribute to the mission?

I help purchase all services and construction for the base.

What aspect of Balad surprised you the most? I was surprised by the conditions on base, it is much better than I expected.

Besides your family, what do you miss back home? I miss Wendy's hamburgers.

Sustainer movie schedule

Schedule is subject to change



Today

3 p.m. - Wedding Crashers
6 p.m. - Hustle & Flow
9 p.m. - Hustle & Flow

Saturday, Oct. 1

3 p.m. - Sky High
6 p.m. - Wedding Crashers
9 p.m. - The Devil's Reject

Sunday, Oct. 2

3 p.m. - Bad News Bears
6 p.m. - Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
9 p.m. - Sky High

Monday, Oct. 3

3 p.m. - Wedding Crashers

6 p.m. - Sky High

9 p.m. - Hustle & Flow

Tuesday, Oct. 4

3 p.m. - Hustle & Flow
6 p.m. - The Devil's Reject
9 p.m. - Bad News Bears

Wednesday, Oct. 5

3 p.m. - Wedding Crashers
6 p.m. - Sky High
9 p.m. - Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Thursday, Oct. 6

3 p.m. - Bad News Bears
6 p.m. - Hustle & Flow
9 p.m. - The Devil's Reject

